

Mayor Mallory's Message for the Week, December 11, 2006

City Budget Being Debated This Week

In November, I proposed a city budget that will strengthen and grow Cincinnati. My budget focuses on the services that are important to citizens and is balanced in terms of both dollars and priorities. It prevents cuts to fundamental city services like recreation, human services, the Arts, and neighborhoods, and invests heavily in public safety, economic development, and in people, including \$500,000 for a Youth Employment Program.

I have also been working with the City Manager and the Health Department to reduce the size of the department's budget while keeping all of our health clinics open, and working with Council to restore funding to the Parks Department to keep our world-class parks clean and beautiful. The bottom line is that the city budget should invest in and cares for citizens and puts the city on course to fulfill its promise with future success.

Next Wednesday, December 20, City Council will pass a final city budget for 2007 and 2008. This week, City Council will begin publicly working on the city budget at a pair of public forums on Tuesday and Thursday.

- Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 pm
Duke Energy Center, Junior Ballroom
525 Elm Street, 45202
- Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 pm
College Hill Recreation Center
5545 Belmont Avenue, 45224

There has been a lot of discussion about possible cuts to important city services and programs, including: closing community centers and city pools; cutting the budget to the Health Department and closing a health clinic; cutting funding to homeless intervention programs and battered women's shelters; cutting funding to neighborhoods; and cutting funding for arts programs and arts facilities such as the Museum Center, the Art Museum, and Music Hall.

Citizen involvement in the budget process is crucial. Before releasing my budget, I held a public budget forum and heard from hundreds of citizens about their budget concerns.

Now you have another opportunity to make an impact on the final budget by attending City Council's public forums this week and speaking about what city services you consider to be important to strengthening and growing our city.

– Mayor Mark Mallory

You can also send the Mayor your thoughts, ideas, and comments on the proposed budget. E-mail: mark.mallory@cincinnati-oh.gov

- [Read the Mayor's Budget Comments to City Council](#)
- [Watch the Mayor's Press Conference announcing his Budget Recommendations](#)